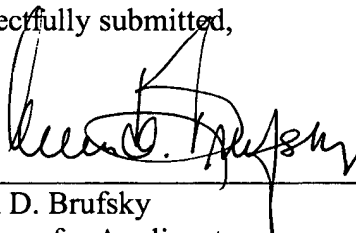


metal or plastic element. Support for the amendments may be found for example in the specification, at page 5, ¶¶ 1 & 4. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that as amended, independent claim is patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, dependent claims 8–11 which depend therefrom are also in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen D. Brufsky", is written over a horizontal line.

Dated: January 30, 2003

Allen D. Brufsky
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 21,056

CUSTOMER NO. 32575

APPENDIX A

In the Claims:

7. (Twice Amended) An implant dental prosthesis comprising:

an implant abutment affixed at a lower end to a dental implant,
said implant abutment having an implant abutment axis;

a circumferential groove in said implant abutment extending substantially
transverse to said axis and a retentive element between said prosthesis and said implant abutment
for co-operating with said circumferential groove; and

an appliance having a hollow retainer cavity with an outwardly and downwardly
taper relative to said implant abutment axis forming a retainer surface telescopically mateable on
an upwardly and inwardly extending facing a mating tapered surface on said axial implant
abutment [making] including coupling means for a resilient retentive fit between said mating
tapered surfaces.